Ban on consumption of Tobacco

*26. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco kills close to seven lakh people every year in India;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to ban tobacco products for those below 18 years;

(c) whether any legislation is under consideration in this regard;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) whether it would also affect the sponsorship and advertisements by the Tobacco Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) As per the information furnished by Indian Council of Medical Research, a few community based surveys in India measured the mortality rates among tobacco-users and non-users to provide the excess risk of death among tobacco-users. Based on these studies and the death rate in India, an estimated eight lakhs deaths annually could be attributable to tobacco use.

(b) to (e) The Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Tenth Lok Sabha) in its 22nd Report had made several recommendations primarily intended to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products. The Government is examining these recommendations and the draft legislation is under consideration of the Government.